

The Invention Claimed Is:

1. A golf ball engagement and support member for attachment to a shaft and employed to retrieve and place golf balls by an individual manipulating the shaft, said golf ball retrieving and support member being of unitary construction and including a first portion and a second portion, said first portion having a first portion top surface, a first portion bottom surface, and a first portion rear surface, said first portion defining a hole for receiving the end of a shaft, said second portion projecting forwardly from said first portion and including spaced first and second golf ball support and engagement arms defining a cavity for receiving a golf ball, said cavity being open at the top and bottom thereof whereby said cavity extends through said golf ball retrieving and support member, said golf ball engagement and support arms having forwardmost disposed distal ends defining a space therebetween communicating with said cavity and proximal ends, said space being smaller than the diameter of a golf ball, said golf ball engagement and support arms having curved golf ball engagement and support surfaces disposed about said cavity rearwardly from the distal ends thereof and converging at said first portion.

2. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 1 wherein said golf ball engagement and

support arms gradually decrease in height in the direction of the distal ends thereof.

3. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 2 wherein said golf ball engagement and support arms gradually decrease in width in the direction of the distal ends thereof.

4. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 3 wherein the proximal ends of said golf ball engagement and support arms join at said first portion.

5. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 4 wherein each of said curved golf ball engagement and support surfaces includes an upper surface segment and a side surface segment, said upper surface segment and said side surface segment adjoining at a curved edge.

6. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 5 wherein said upper surface segments extend upwardly to and adjoin the first portion top surface.

7. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 1 wherein said distal ends are pointed and directed toward one another.

8. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 5 defining an elongated tee retention hole in communication with said cavity and extending therefrom into said first portion.

9. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 1 wherein said first portion bottom surface and bottom surfaces of said golf ball engagement and support arms are flat and co-planar.

10. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 8 having a tapered tee guide surface for guiding entry of a golf tee into said tee retention hole when said golf ball engagement and support member engages the golf tee.

11. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 8 defining a tee head retention recess communicating with said tee retention hole, said tee head retention recess for releasably holding a tee in substantially vertical orientation when placing a golf tee into the ground or extracting a golf tee from the ground.

12. The golf ball engagement member according to Claim 11 defining a slot communicating with said tee head retention recess for releasably holding a golf ball marker.

13. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 1 wherein said first portion top surface is comprised of a plurality of planar segments angularly disposed relative to one another.

14. The golf ball engagement and support member according to Claim 1 being of integral construction.